



## **More telecom development means a stronger economy**

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**I**t's remarkable to think of just how far our communications have come over the past decade. From the explosion of Internet use to cell phones, Blackberries and instant messaging, the way we communicate has changed dramatically since 1996, when our telecommunications laws were last updated.

For example, I'm sending this letter to The Sun via broadband. It's good to see that Washington is now taking a good look at updating our nation's telecom laws.

The recent Congressional hearing dedicated to examining the rapidly changing voice marketplace is a positive step in the right direction. Yes, the potential to get telephone service through your cable or Internet company is an important technological advancement, but let's remember that Internet calling is only one of many exciting innovations in the new world of communications.

IP technology also allows more companies beyond cable and satellite to compete in digital television. Accelerating the arrival of innovative choices and services can best come from reforming our nation's outdated telecom laws to embrace real, market-based competition that encourages all providers to invest and compete vigorously for our business.

U.S. Rep. Cliff Stearns has voiced his conviction that a strong information economy will strengthen Florida's economy. He's committed to speeding broadband deployment and next-generation innovations to more Floridians. I urge Stearns to support comprehensive telecom reform that allows consumers to decide which services and technologies best meet our needs, through the choices we make in an innovative marketplace.

**Remzey L. Paul Samarrai,  
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